



SAN ANTONIO

POLICE

Office of the Chief of Police, Police Media Services, 214 W. Nueva, San Antonio, Texas 78207
Office Telephone (210) 207-7579, Fax (210) 207-7567, Police Dispatcher (210) 207-7494

Contact: Sgt. Gabriel Trevino

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1992 Murder Solved with Inmate Confession

On March 11th, 2009, death row inmate Luis Cervantes Salazar was preparing to be put to death for the 1997 stabbing death of Martha Sanchez (SAPD case #97-624796). Salazar stabbed Martha Sanchez to death on 10-11-97 at 250 Future, San Antonio, Tx. Salazar was encouraged by his spiritual counselor to speak with the Texas Rangers regarding other crimes he had committed. At 4:54 pm a Texas Ranger interviewed Salazar for approximately 20 minutes, during which time Salazar confessed to the stabbing death of a young female clerk at the Stop and Go at Woodlawn and 36th Street, during the early 1990's. At 6:20 pm Salazar was put to death.

After Salazar's death, Texas Rangers contacted SAPD cold case detectives with the information. After learning of the details of the Capital Murder, it was clear that the victim was Melissa Morales, a store clerk who had been stabbed thirteen times while working at the Stop n Go at 2409 NW 36th Street on April 19, 1992, Easter Sunday.

Once the audio taped interview was received and transcribed, SAPD Detectives went about verifying Salazar's confession. Salazar gave details about the Capital Murder that could have only been known by the murderer. These details confirmed that Salazar had murdered Melissa Morales during a robbery.

On Thursday April 2nd, 2009 SAPD detectives notified Melissa Morales' parents, Stephen and Alma DeLeon, and her grandparents, Jesse and Carolina Robledo of Salazar's confession.

After Melissa Morales murder, her parents, grandparents, and Carrie Willborn lobbied Legislature with State Representative Leticia Van de Putte to require all convenience stores to install security cameras. Because of their efforts the bill was passed.

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